

AUG 22 2006

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/770,125
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT
FINAL

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,000,599; hereinafter "McCall"). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCall. Claims 5-11, 13 and 15-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The application has been placed in condition for allowance by rewriting claims 5 and 6 in independent form and cancelling claims 1 to 4. The dependencies of claims 9 and 11 to 15 have been amended for consistency with the cancellation of claims 1 to 4 and the rewriting of claims 5 and 6. Claims 7 to 20 depend directly or indirectly on one of claims 5 and 6 and are in condition for allowance.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of the claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Notice of Allowability is also believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2006, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor

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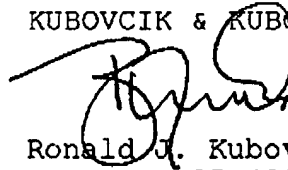
issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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